

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-NOVEMBER 24, 2003

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:32 p.m. in the council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the two sets of minutes, November 10, 2003 and the special organizational meeting of November 17, 2003.

So passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Rudy Favretti, Middle Turnpike, presented the Council with a letter regarding the removal of the ten white pine trees that stood along the north boundary of the Municipal Building. These trees had been removed because of sap dripping onto staff cars in that parking area. Since the trees could not be reattached he urged the Council to consult with their many consultants prior to making changes on the landscape of Town buildings.

Mr. Quentin Kessell, Secretary of the Conservation Commission, spoke on the two letters the Commission sent to the Council. These letters addressed two concerns. The first was the lack of managing and caring for the Moss Sanctuary by the University and the second item was to urged the Council to pay careful attention to the University of Connecticut's RCRA 90-Day Storage Facility for Hazardous Waste Comparative Site Study. The Town Manager referred both items to staff for review and consideration.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to move item # 7 up on the agenda.

So passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An Ordinance Regulating Possession of Alcohol by Persons Under 21 Years of Age

No comments from the public. Hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield 300th Steering Committee

Mayor Paterson read the proclamation thanking the Steering Committee for their work on the 300th Celebration. She presented a framed copy of the poster of Annie Wandell's painting of Col. Experience Storrs drilling the militia in Mansfield Center.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance Regulating Possession of Alcohol by Persons Under 21 Years of Age

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective November 24, 2003, to adopt "An ordinance Regulating the Possession of Alcohol by Persons Under 21 Years of Age" as proposed by staff in its draft dated November 24, 2003, and which amendment will become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation in the Town of Mansfield.

Much discussion by the Council followed. Concern expressed that the ordinance address large groups of underage drinkers and not the small number of family with a few guests who may be having a drink. There was concern that the ordinance was overreaching onto private property.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to table this item with the intention that perhaps Sgt. Darcy could attend a Council meeting and discuss the issue.

Motion so passed. Mr. Haddad voted against.

3. Length of Service Awards Program for Volunteer Emergency Services Personnel

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded that effective November 24, 2003, to authorize staff to implement the length of service awards program (LOSAP) for volunteer emergency services personnel, as proposed by the Emergency Services Management Team in its memorandum dated November 24, 2003.

So passed. Mrs. Blair abstained.

4. Amendment to Fee Waiver Ordinance

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective November 24, 2003, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 8, 2003 to solicit public comment on the proposed amendment to add the after-school program to the Fee Waivers Ordinance.

So passed unanimously.

5. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2003

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to accept the Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2003, as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

6. Underage Drinking, University Spring Weekend and President Austin's Task Force on Substance Abuse.

Town Manager is on a sub-committee for the Task Force looking at 8-10 items regarding drinking. The committee is meeting every Thursday morning for an hour or two to discuss the issue of underage drinking and University Spring Weekend.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield 300th Steering Committee

Already discussed.

8. Schedule of Regular Town Council Meetings for 2004

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the schedule of regular Town Council meetings for 2004 as presented by the Town Clerk.

So passed unanimously.

9. Status Report on Pending Claims and Litigation

The Town Manager handed out the report. No action necessary.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Bellm attended the Community Conversation program. It was an excellent program.

Mayor welcomed the two new Council members Mrs. Blair and Mr. Paulhus.

XI. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

The Town Manager announced that there would be a project update on the Town on December 8, 2003 from 6-7:30 p.m. before the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

University development of East campus.

Care of Moss Sanctuary.

The Conservation Commission concerns of the hazardous waste site on the campus.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

10.W. Topliff re: Update of Local Ambulatory Exemption

11.M. Berliner re: Appointments to Library Advisory Board

12.The Daily Campus-"Future Development of Campus Discussed"

13.The New York Times-"Courts; Drug System is Found to be Effective"

14.Department of Correction re: Capacity and Population for Bergin Correctional Institution

15.D. Dagon re; 2003 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

16.Mansfield Downtown Partnership re: Selection of Master Developer for Commercial Town Center

17.Charter Oak Environmental Services, Inc. re: Second Quarter 2003 Event-Trace Dieldrin Levels

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:08 p.m. Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk